

January 13, 2005

NEWS

For Immediate Release

NEWS

State Closes Registration Moose Hunt RM849 in Western Unit 22B

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announces an emergency order closure of the State Registration moose hunt RM849 in western Unit 22B at 11:59 p.m. January 14, 2005. The area affected by this closure is Unit 22B west of the Darby Mountains, including the Fish and Niukluk River drainages, Council, White Mountain, and Golovin.

The department set a harvest quota of 7 bulls for the winter registration permit hunt in western Unit 22B. On Jan. 13 the reported harvest was 5 bulls, and due to the 3-day reporting period it is possible additional harvest has occurred. To prevent harvest above the established harvest quota the season will be closed.

Moose censuses of western Unit 22B have shown a 64% decline in the moose population since 1987 and recruitment rates have been below 10% for more than 10 years. To help stabilize this population, the Alaska Board of Game established fall and winter registration permit hunts with a combined quota of 30 moose. This prevents harvest from exceeding estimated annual recruitment in western Unit 22B.

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